

Appendix I

Care Options Available to People with Dementia in Urgent Situations

Type of Care	Availability	Barriers to Use
Respite – In Home Paid Caregivers	Usually need advanced scheduling notice, even if person is currently enrolled in services.	Staff availability
Respite – In Home Volunteers	If through an agency like Interfaith need advanced scheduling notice. If provided by individuals scheduling can be more flexible.	Need to be recruited, trained, maintained.
Respite – Extended Family or Other Natural Supports	Usually most flexible availability option.	May be part of the crisis, make it worse.
Home Companion Services	Usually need advanced scheduling notice, even if person is currently enrolled in services.	Only available at certain times of day or week. Not usually considered crisis responders.
Home Health Services	Can be accessed in an emergency if staff are available depending on time of day. Skilled nursing staff for medical reasons.	Skilled nursing, personal care only. Pre-set time frames and procedures. Need prior authorization if funded.
Respite - Assisted Living Facility	Usually need advanced scheduling notice, most facilities' staff are not trained to accept crisis admissions.	Pre-admission screening and information must be obtained per licensing regulations.
Assisted Living Facility Placement Short Term	(same as above)	(same as above)
Assisted Living Facility Placement Long Term	(same as above)	(same as above)
Emergency Room	Always available, not always close or appropriate.	One time solution, if used more often can cause problems. Costly, may not be funded.
Hospital Admission to psychiatric unit (usually short-term)	Not always available – hospital may not have a unit, or insurance coverage may limit access, length of use.	Very costly. Person may be overmedicated, not get proper care/screening for dementia issues.
Psychiatric Institution (admission usually through emergency detention)	Facility may be very far away, access through law enforcement.	Very costly. Person may be overmedicated, not get proper care/screening for dementia issues.

Skilled Nursing Facility (Long term unless considered rehabilitation)		Very costly. Person may not get proper care/screening for dementia issues. SNF's often discharge people with problem behavior.
Jail	Inappropriate unless person has committed a crime.	Very costly. No dementia issues addressed. Will severely aggravate person's behavior.